

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
MINUTES OF AUGUST 9, 2017
FISHERS ISLAND
TOWN OF SOUTHOLD, NEW YORK**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Gilbert Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Kathleen Gooding	Vice Chair, Trustee, Town of Shelter Island
Dawn Hopkins	Chair, Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Debra Kolyer	Member of the Board
Peter Leis	Trustee, Town of Islip
Arthur Leudesdorf	Trustee, Town of Southold
Terence McSweeney	Trustee, Town of Babylon
William B. Sickles	Trustee, Town of Southampton
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

ABSENT

Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Terrence Pearsall	Member of the Board
Michael Rosato	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
VACANT	Member at Large

PARKS DEPARTMENT

Philip Berdolt	Parks Commissioner
Nick Gibbons	Principal Environmental Analyst
Emily Lauri	Community Relations Director
Terry Maccarrone	Coordinator of Community Based Programs
Richard Martin	Director of Historic Services
Barbara Rittman	Senior Clerk Typist

GUESTS

Hon. Kara Hahn	Legislator, District 5
	Parks Committee Chair

PUBLIC PORTION

There were no members of the public present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 27, 2017

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Trustee Richard White and seconded by Trust Gilbert Cardillo. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Berdolt reported that the Outer Beach is completely open now. Some camp sites are also being re-established today on the beach at Smith Point CP. Cupsogue and Cedar Point Parks will be open by the weekend. Nick Gibbons stated that it was a very good year for the piping plovers, plus they finished two weeks

earlier than they usually do. Commissioner Berdolt reported that the county did very well when compared with the National Average as well. Trustee Sickles inquired if U.S. Fish & Wildlife was doing anything regarding predator removal. Nick stated that the USDA was. However, this year it wasn't an issue due to decimation of the fox population from mange.

Commissioner Berdolt reported that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service still wants to de-vegetate at Smith Point CP. They will be submitting an application for a waiver of the Parks Pesticide Phase-out which they will have to go before a committee to get an approval for. If it isn't approved, they will de-vegetate mechanically with a bulldozer. Trustee Cardillo inquired why they want to do it. Commissioner Berdolt explained that they want to keep the wash over area de-vegetated for the birds so it is smooth and sandy providing more of a nesting habitat on either side of Burma Road. He added that it was part of the agreement with the Service to get federal sand for the dunes to be rebuilt. It is hoped that Congressman Zeldin will step in and assist in getting this changed. The Army Corps of Engineers is in agreement for the Parks Department to keep Burma Road. The hardening of Burma Road will be completed during the winter.

Commissioner Berdolt reported that another issue with Smith Point CP is the Baskel Bridge which is starting to fail. There are plans in the works with DPW to get a new bridge built and it will be a similar type of bridge as the Ponquogue Bridge over the Shinnecock Bay in Hampton Bays. Completion is expected to be a few years away. For now, there will be load restrictions in place with a 15 ton maximum. This will exclude large RVs, garbage trucks and fire trucks from crossing. A meeting will be held next week to work out enforcement details.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Hopkins requested an update on the Parks Watch Program. Commissioner Berdolt reported that Legislator Hahn's office is planning a press conference at Lakeland CP in Islandia and a tentative date of Monday, August 21st at 11 a.m. has been set. An email will go out to the Parks Trustees once this date has been confirmed.

ROUND TABLE

Legislator Hahn thanked everyone who came out to Old Field County Farm for the tour after the last Parks Trustee meeting on July 27th. She hopes that one day in the near future, improved public access can be achieved at the site. She has a vision for a walking trail there and she hopes patrons will be supportive of this idea. At present, the public doesn't have access to the farm unless they are a part of the horse community. The gates are always kept locked, except when there are scheduled special events or horse shows. A walking path around the outskirts of the farm and installation of a fence in between the rink and grand stands would help create more public accessibility and also get walkers and bikers off of the narrow winding roads in the area. Commissioner Berdolt agreed with Legislator Hahn's idea for the walking path. He added that the existing wetlands will have to be considered and appropriate permits acquired from the DEC.

Commissioner Berdolt stated that he was in touch with the constituent who attended the last Parks Trustee meeting at Old Field Farm and spoke about the need for sidewalks in the area. The Commissioner sent her information called "Safe Routes" which is a NYS DOT grant that goes to schools. He also referred her to Brookhaven Highway Superintendent Dan Losquadro who can assist her with the process.

Trustee Leudesdorf thanked everyone for attending the meeting at Fishers Island.

Trustee White thanked Trustee Leudesdorf for arranging for the August Parks Trustee meeting to be held at Fishers Island.

Trustee Cardillo asked Richard Martin for a brief history of Fishers Island. Richard stated that the entire island was originally a manor owned by Governor John Winthrop of Connecticut. It was first a farming plantation and years later became a resort community. Trustee Cardillo commented that the zip code is from Connecticut. Trustee McSweeney added that the King of England ruled that every island in the Long Island Sound belongs to New York. Block Island belongs to Rhode Island.

Trustee Gooding thanked Trustee Leudesdorf for his arrangements for the Fishers Island meeting.

Trustee Sickles thanked Trustee Leudesdorf as well. He asked Terry Maccarrone if there is any update since the bid packages came back for the spillway work at Hubbard CP. Terry reported that the bid packages are currently being reviewed and DPW will hopefully begin construction this fall.

Trustee Leis thanked Trustee Leudesdorf. He added that some Islip residents have been looking at Legislator Hahn's Passport Program and love the idea. Trustee Leis inquired about how business is going at the Suffolk County golf courses. Commissioner Berdolt reported that May and June were way down because of the poor weather. They made a strong come back but revenues are still down overall. Camping revenues are up, except for Cedar Point CP. This is partially due to phone lines being cut when the new check-in station was being built and they weren't repaired in a timely fashion. Emily Lauri added that rules are also going to be changed to a 3 night advance reservation, and a seven day reservation in advance will no longer be required.

Trustee White inquired about the concession stand at Cedar Point CP. Commissioner Berdolt reported that 3 RFPs (Requests for Proposals) went out and no responses came back. He plans to send out another one again at the end of the year and change it up to possibly include a restaurant/bar. A lot can be done there to enlarge it and the location also has a beautiful view.

Nick Gibbons reported about the access issue that the Montauk FD had with the outer beach at Montauk by Shagwong and Oyster Pond. The Parks Department received a letter from the Montauk FD Chief and Parks is going to meet with him and the East Zone Supervisor to go over prioritizing cutting back and re-claiming some of the trails this fall/winter after the busy summer season ends.

Nick reported that the Third House Nature Center has returned to Third House. During the past 10-12 years, the group took up residence in a Town of East Hampton facility. Members then started to meet at private homes. The Third House Nature Center is starting up a program on Saturdays in the partially restored portion of the building to welcome visitors. They will be a good representation at Third House and helpful in directing patrons to the nature trails, camp grounds and also finding access to the Paumanok Path.

Commissioner Berdolt reported that London Roseire has moved her Camp Soulgrow into the 3 room motel unit on the Third House grounds and it is working out well at the new location.

Nick reported that the Parks Department has County Parkland at Fishers Island that was most likely acquired through a tax default. It is a 2 ½ acre island located a few hundred yards off the east end of Fishers Island, and composed mostly of eroding rock.

Trustee McSweeney thanked Trustee Leudesdorf for planning the trip to Fishers Island.

Terry Maccarrone also thanked Trustee Leudesdorf. Terry reported that there are a few projects that are planned to start moving forward this fall, once all funding is in place.

Commissioner Berdolt reported that the Parks Department received the DEC permit for the remediation of West Hills CP. Parks is working on getting a quote from the Parks requirements contractor (Branch Services) for asbestos & hazardous material removal and hoping to hear back from them very shortly. Because it's a

requirements contract, the Parks Department won't have to go out for a bid and all of the funding to pay for it doesn't have to be immediately in place. Commissioner Berdolt stated that he is pleased with how it is progressing.

Richard Martin reported that next Monday, August 14th there will be a press conference in Sag Harbor at the end of the wharf to announce the beginning of the restoration of the exterior of the Cedar Point Lighthouse. Lee H. Skolnick Architecture & Design Partnership from Sag Harbor has been hired, and they are anxious to get started on the project. They will be doing a full set of restoration plans for the exterior of the building, and it will include a new roof and restoration of the granite wall. Once the new roof is completed, the lantern that had to be removed and restored will be replaced. The solid steel lantern is approximately 10' x 10' square and was never bolted on or attached to the flat roof in any way. It surprisingly withstood the Hurricane of 1938.

The next Parks Trustee meeting will be held at Third House at Montauk CP on Thursday, September 28, 2017.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee Richard White and was seconded by Commissioner Philip Berdolt. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.